



Office of Health Benefits

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Benefits Administrator Memo **#18-01**

To: Benefits Administrators
From: State and Local Health Benefits Programs
CC: All OHB
Date: March 28, 2018
Re: Social Security Number Removal Initiative (SSNRI)

Starting in April, Medicare will begin using a new Medicare Beneficiary Identifier (MBI) that will replace the current Health Insurance Claim Number (HICN) format. The MBI uses randomly-assigned numbers and uppercase letters, NOT Social Security Numbers, which will help to prevent fraud and identity theft for Medicare beneficiaries. For purposes of BES keying, this change affects only retiree group participants moving to the Advantage 65 Plans, not active employees. It will not relieve the responsibility to provide participants' Social Security Number in the SSN field to fulfill other requirements.

To accommodate this change for existing Advantage 65 or Option II enrollees, no action is needed on your part. Express Scripts will provide a "crosswalk" file in early April to update all existing HICNs to the new MBI format. DHRM has converted the former HICN field to accept the new MBI format in BES. If you enroll a participant in an Advantage 65 Plan, you will be able to enter the new MBI, which has the same number of characters as the HICN. (Do not enter hyphens—see below.) However, Medicare will accept both HICNs and MBIs through December 31, 2019, so if a new Advantage 65 enrollee or newly Medicare-eligible retiree group participant provides a HICN instead of the new MBI format, you may continue to key it through December 31, 2019. Express Scripts will then provide the MBI through the normal DHRM reporting process, and DHRM will update BES.

Following is an example of the new format. In this case, you would key 1EG4TE5MK72.

MEDICARE HEALTH INSURANCE

Name/Nombre
JOHN L SMITH

Medicare Number/Número de Medicare
1EG4-TE5-MK72

Entitled to/Con derecho a
HOSPITAL (PART A)
MEDICAL (PART B)

Coverage starts/Cobertura empieza
03-01-2016
03-01-2016